



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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NEWS RELEASE

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Palos Heights Business Man sentenced for Scheme to Smuggle Eastern European Illegal Aliens

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing of Jerry Liscak, a 49-year-old naturalized citizen from Czechoslovakia, for operating a smuggling scheme to bring a dozen illegal aliens from Poland and Slovakia through the Bahamas with a final destination of Chicago. Liscak hired a boat captain who was an undercover INS agent to smuggle the aliens from the Bahamas to the Miami area.

Liscak was sentenced Thursday by U.S. District Court Judge Charles Norgle to 50 months incarceration and ordered to report to prison on December 1, 1999. Liscak also received 3 years supervised release and must pay restitution to law enforcement in the amount of \$6,260. The U.S. government also won forfeiture of Liscak's auto repair business, Foreign Auto Service, located at 10058 South Roberts Road in Palos Heights, which has an estimated value of \$550,000.

Liscak was arrested at his business on November 6, 1997, after a two-year undercover operation by INS revealed that Liscak smuggled a dozen illegal aliens into the United States, harbored and concealed them at apartments above his auto repair shop in Palos Heights, and also manufactured a variety of counterfeit identification and immigration documents at that location.

"One of the enforcement priorities for the INS is to combat the organized smuggling of illegal aliens into the United States," stated Brian R. Perryman, INS District Director in Chicago. "We are concentrating our resources and personnel in this area and we are committed to stopping the trafficking of illegal aliens into the country."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Reinberg, Northern District of Illinois, was responsible for the successful prosecution of this case in the U.S. District Court.

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